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Special Operations in Desert Shield / Desert Storm



BY: Col (Ret) Jim Kraus



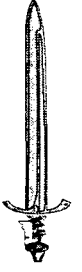
Purpose of Briefing

To inform attendees on the unclassified activities of the Army Special Operations Task Force during Desert Shield/Desert Storm (DS/DS)



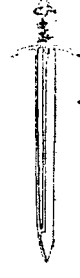
What Briefing is Not

- A detailed account of DS/DS
- An account of all Special Operations activities during DS/DS



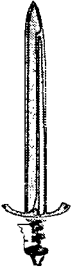
ARSOTF Mission

- Deploy to Saudi Arabia with all personnel and equipment
- Provide liaison and conduct Foreign Internal Defense (FID) operations with the Saudi Arabian Land Forces and on order conduct FID with with Pan Arab forces in the Eastern Area Command ...



Army Special Operations Task Force in DS/DS

- Formed Army Special Operations Task Force OPCON to CENTCOM
- First time USSF/SOF have been used in day to day direct support of MRC
- Conducted Coalition Support Activities
- Developed TTP for Coalition Support activities



Alerted on 6 August 90 at Ft Campbell, KY

- Admonished to bring everything
- Planned and Prepared For
 - 24 hours
 - 1st Bn
 - Group Battle Staff
 - 48 hrs
 - 2nd Bn
 - Support Co (-)
 - 72 hours
 - Remainder less OPCON/attached units



Deployment Sequence

- 1- 5th Special Forces Group and Special Forces Operational Base Battle Staff
- 5th Special Forces Group Hq (-)
- 2-5 Special Forces
- 3-5 Special Forces
- 5 SFG Support Center



Deployment

DEPLOYMENT A/C

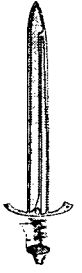
- 33, C-141
- 19, C-5
- 1902 SHORT TONS
- 1147 PAX

GUIDANCE

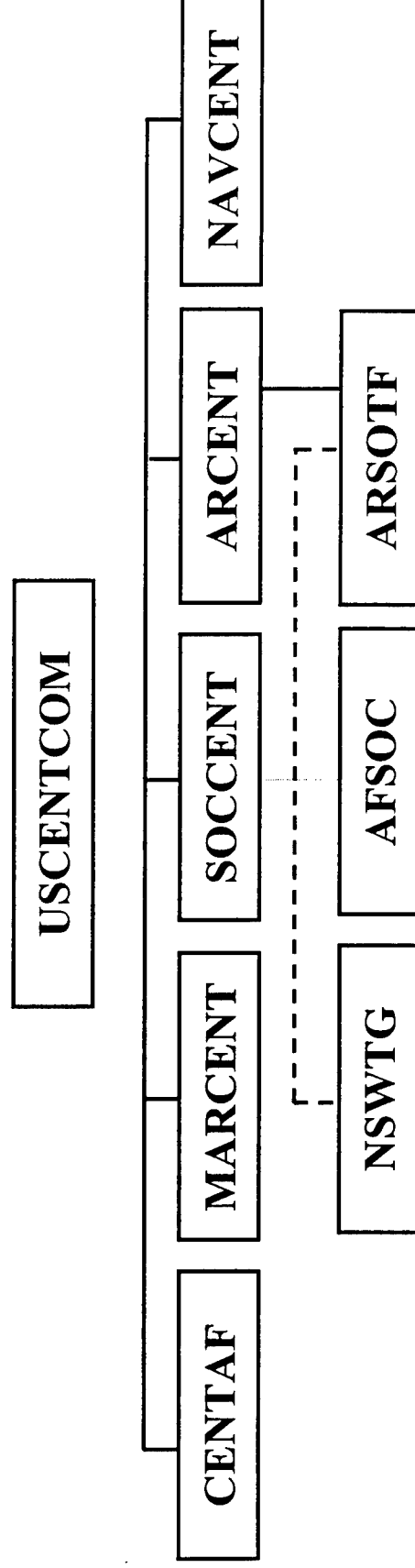
- ALL EQUIPMENT
- BARE BASE
- 30 DAYS SUSTAINMENT
- UBL AMMO
- 5 DAYS RATIONS



ORGANIZATION IN THEATRE



CENTCOM Command Structure



— CMD
- - - OPCON

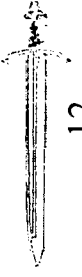
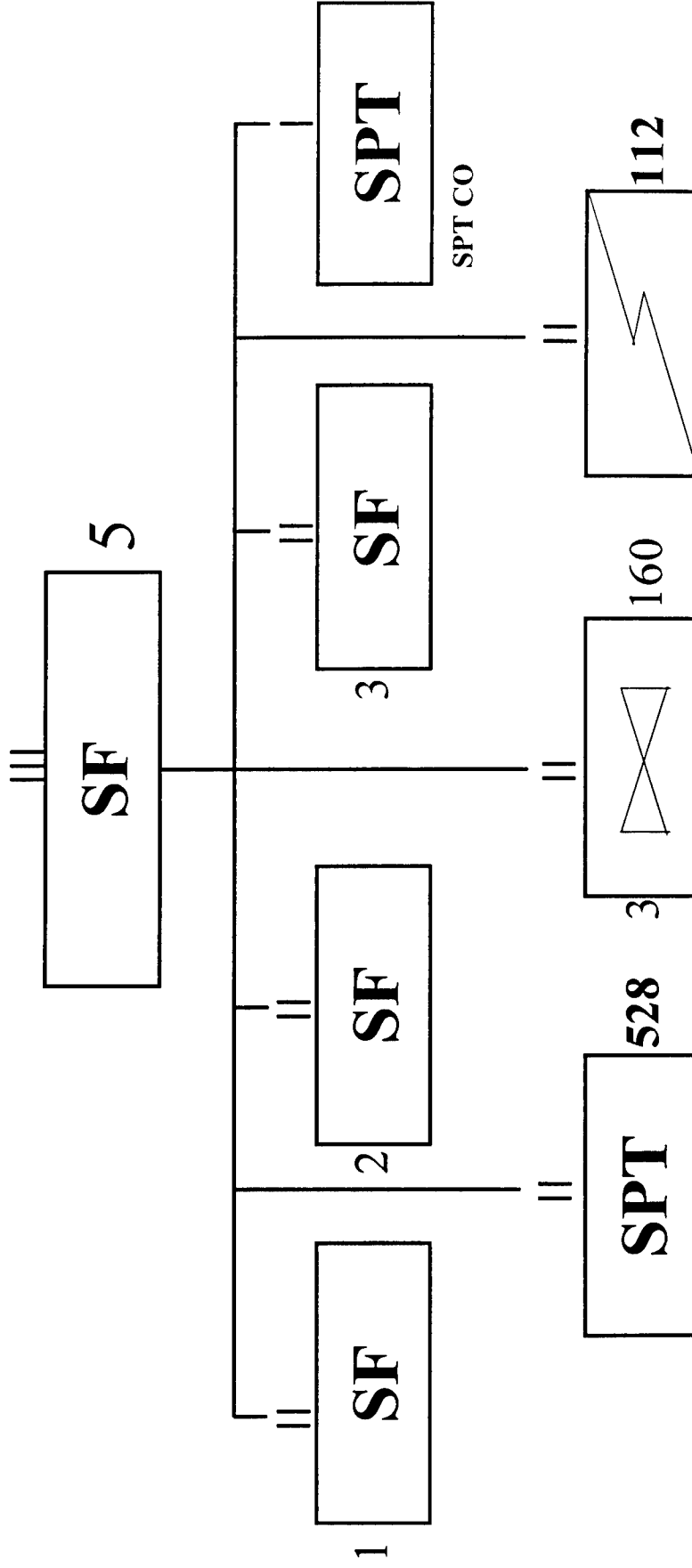


CENTOM Mission Statement

- Neutralize Iraqi National Command Authority
- Eject Iraqi Armed Forces From Kuwait
- Destroy Iraq's Ballistic Missile, NBC Capability
- Assist in the Restoration of the Legitimate Government of Kuwait

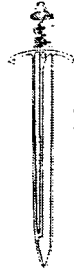


ARSOTF ORGANIZATION



3-16th Special Operations Aviation Bn

- CSAR
- DEEP PENETRATION
- SR
- DA
- MEDEVAC (EMER EXFIL / MEDEVAC)
- 8 x MH 60s
- 7 x MH 47s



112th Special Operations Signal Bn (Abn)

- Provided invaluable communications support to the ARSOTF
- NRI (1)
- SOCA (8)
- LDC (13) (PART OF HFMUX AND SOCAS)
- HFMUX (8)
- COMMAND AND CONTROL
- PLANS



528th Special Operations

Support Bn (Abn)

- LINKAGE INTO SUPCOM (EAC)
- ALL CLASSES OF SUPPLY
- TRANSPORTATION
- MAINTENANCE
- PLANS / COORDINATION TO SUPPORT
- CINC DEFENSIVE / OFFENSIVE CAMPAIGN



Desert Shield Activities



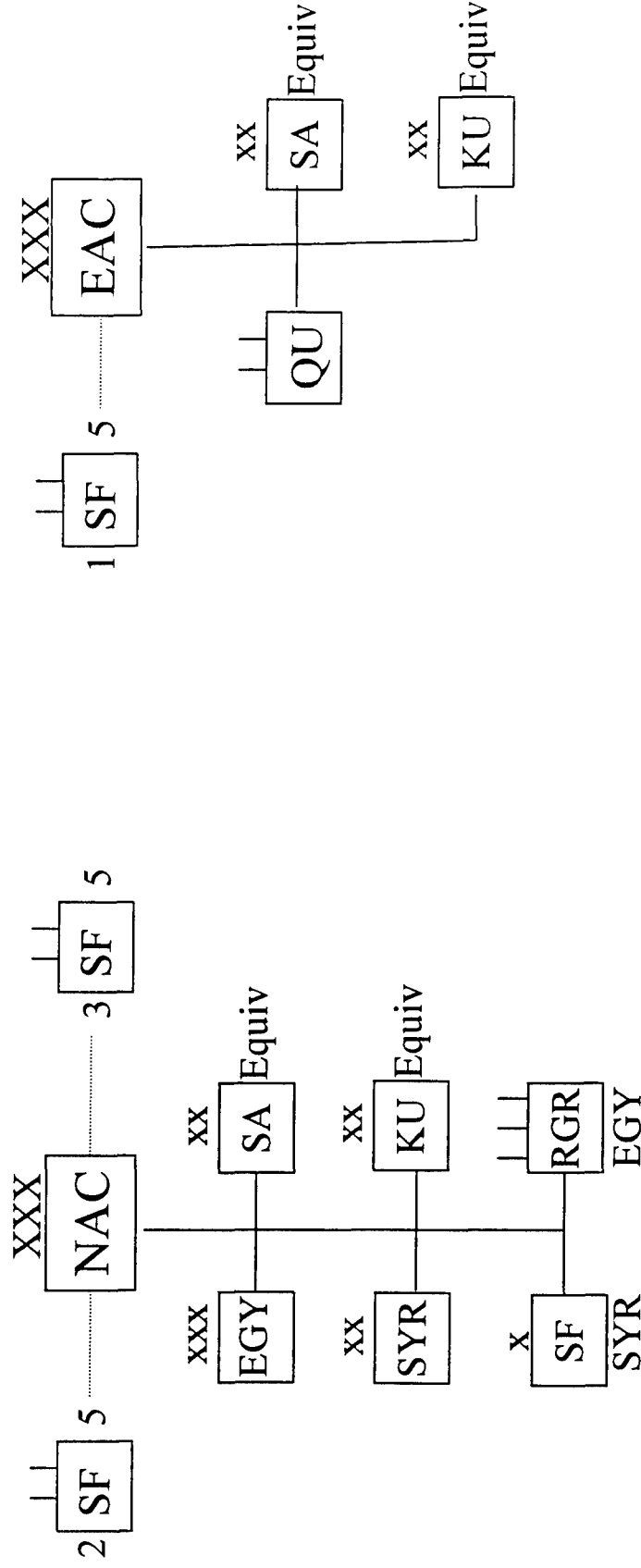
Incompatibility problems between

US and PanArab Forces

- Language differences and cultural differences
- Communications, equipment and procedures
- Different tactics / doctrine
- Equipment
- Staffing procedures
- Combat Support and Combat Service Support
- Use of Threat equipment by Pan Arab forces (T-72, BMP, BTR, D-30, etc.)



Pan Arab Forces



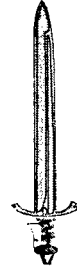
Equivalent to seven divisions +

NAC = Northern Area Command
EAC = Eastern Area Command

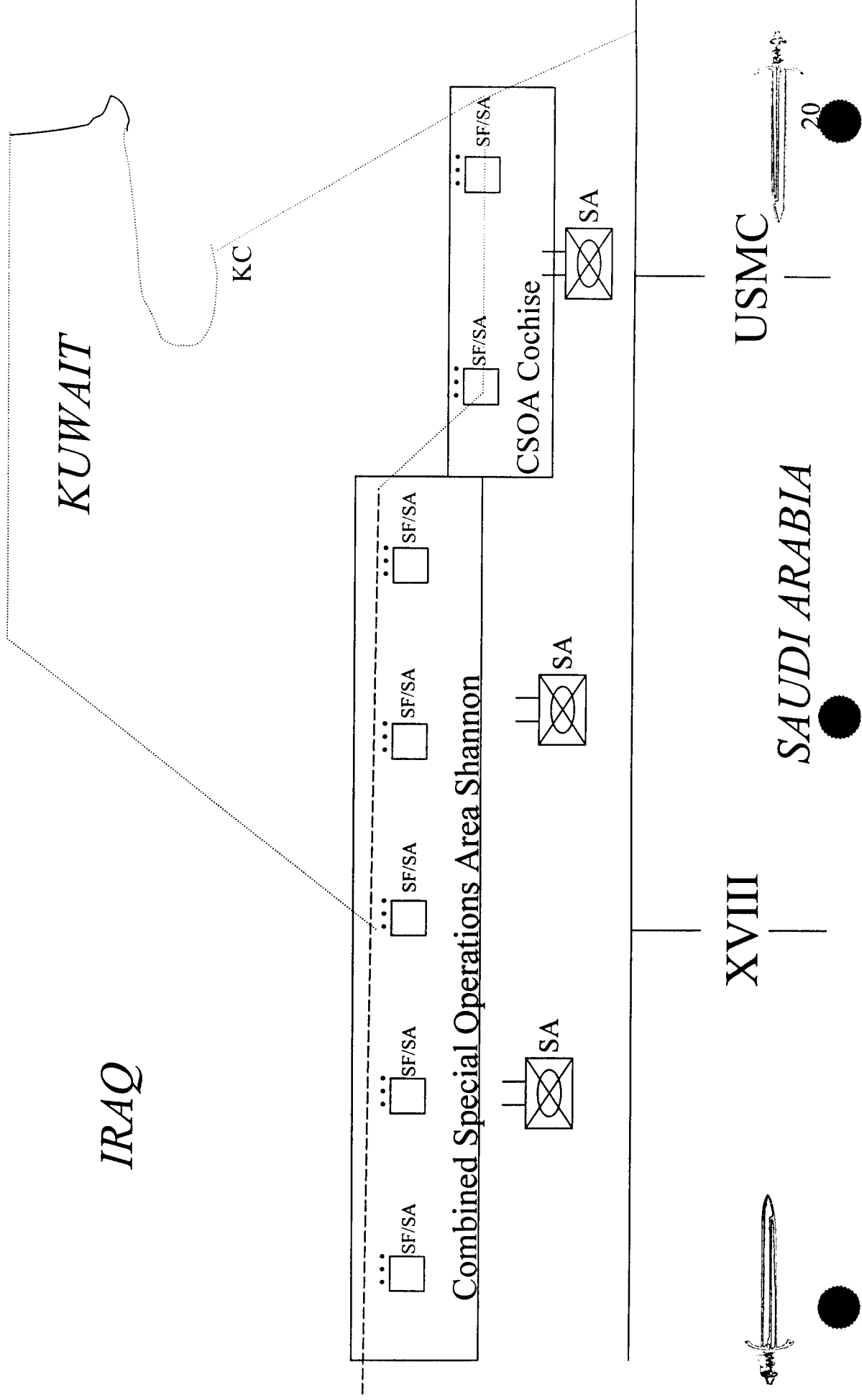


Initial Concept

- Train, coordinate, train
- Provide early warning of ground attack
- Attrit attacking forces
- Fall back to Saudi Brigades while continuing to attrit Iraqi forces
- Conduct passage of lines, under contact, thru XVIII Corps forces
- Move into assembly area prepare to continue attack



Border Surveillance



Initial Activities

- Patrolling along Kuwaiti/Iraqi Border
- Reconnaissance
- Assessing Pan Arab forces
- Training, training, training
- Begin reconstituting Kuwaiti Army



Training With Coalition Forces

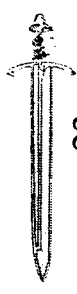
- Individual, Collective and Leader Tasks
 - Staffing organization and procedures
 - Defensive and Offensive Operations
 - Mobility / Counter Mobility
 - Maintenance
 - NBC warfare
 - Logistics



Training With Coalition Forces

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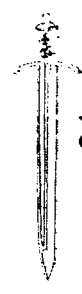
- Communications
- Battlefield Coordination
- Reconnaissance TTP
- Tank Gunnery
- Mission Planning
- MOUT



Training with Coalition Forces

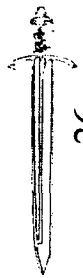
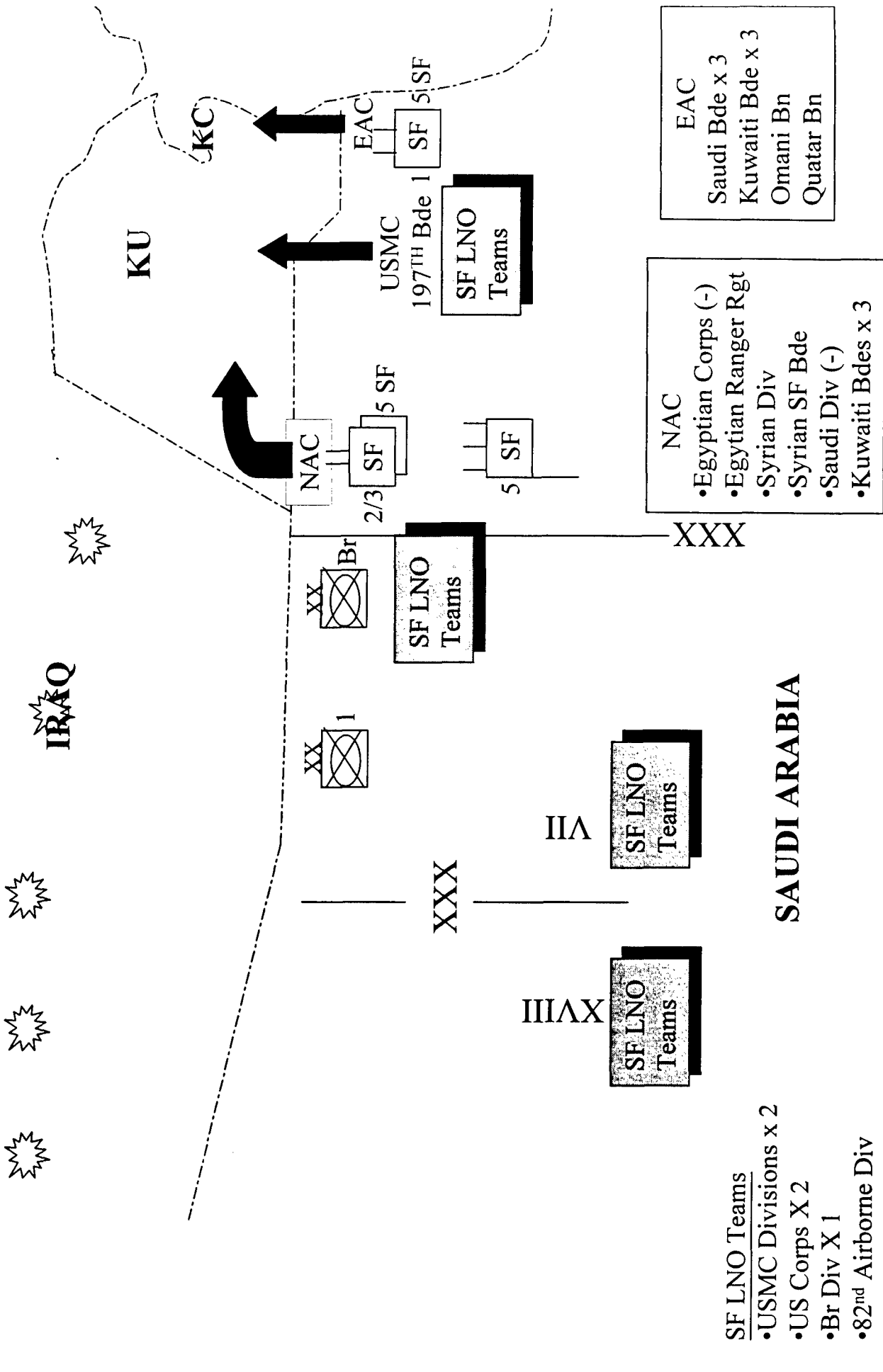
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- Limited visibility operations
- Clearing obstacles (mine fields)/ Crossing trench lines
- Map reading and US/NATO graphics
- Integration of CAS
- Fire Support

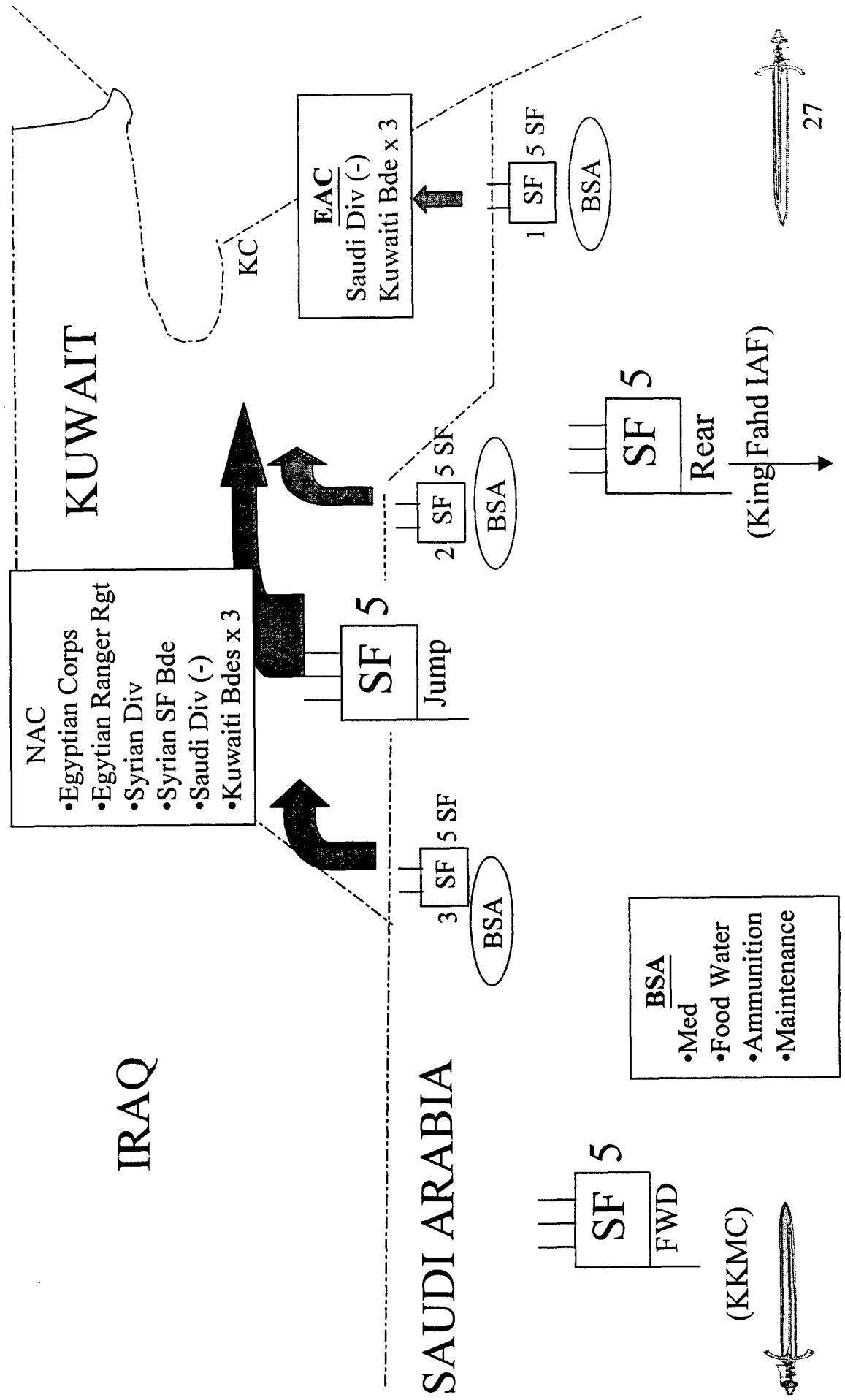


Desert Storm Activities





ARSOTF Command and Control



Coalition Support

- Close Air Support
 - Active
 - Passive
- Navigation
- Command and Control
- Passage of lines
- CS/CSS



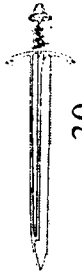
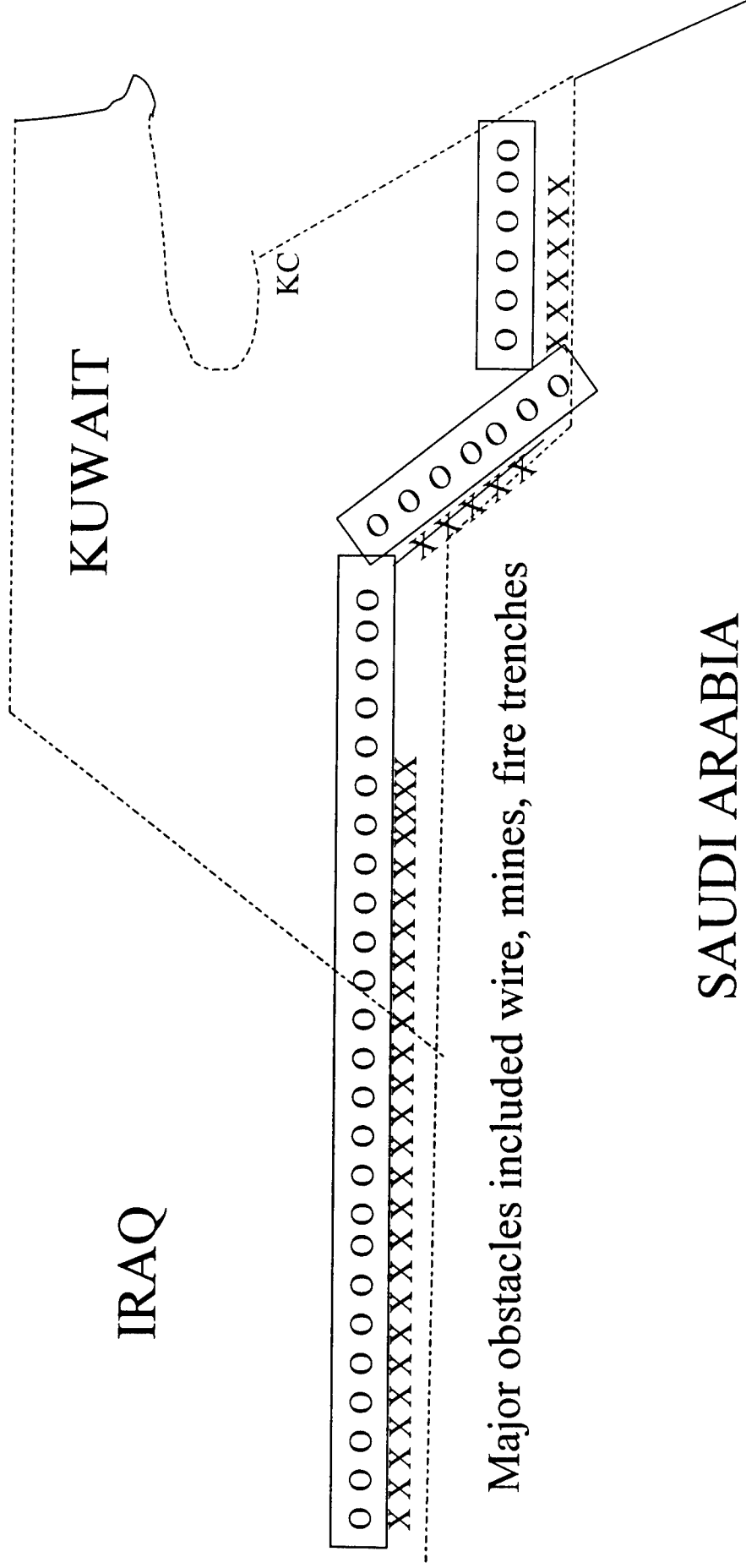
ARSOTF Activities Desert Storm

- REPORTING (Ground Truth)
 - LOCATION
 - ACTIVITIES
 - INTENTIONS
 - CAPABILITIES BY BOS
- Coordination with Adjacent Units
- Counter Revenge Measures

(109 Teams – down to battalion)



Obstacle Belts



PanArab Forces

- Egyptian Corps
 - 2 x Div
 - RGR Rgt
- Syrian Div
 - 2 x Ar Bde
 - SF Rgt



PanArab Forces (Cont)

- Saudi Forces
 - 6 Bdes
- Kuwaiti Forces
 - 6 Bdes
- Other
 - Omani
 - Bangladeshi
 - UAE



Special Reconnaissance

- Deep into Iraq
- Supported 2 x US Corps
- Mission to let Corps Commanders know of enemy movements in/out of AO



Combat Search and Rescue

- 3 – 160 SOAR
- Placed SF Teams personnel on board to:
 - Provide local security at suspected pickup point
 - Search for downed aviator
 - Assist downed pilot to aircraft, if injured
- Picked up one AF pilot



Combating Terrorism

- Ad Hoc mission
- Prepared and launched to assist US Embassy in Somalia



Direct Action

- Planned Destruction of Train carrying Missiles
- Laser designation operations
- Building clearing operations
- Combat operations



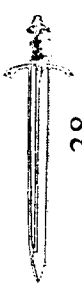
Civil Affairs

- Kuwait City Clearing Operations: non-combatants
 - Established evacuation routes
 - Established collection points
 - Established assembly areas
- Established food/water distribution points in KC
- Distributed food/water to noncombatants
- 352 Civil Affairs Group handled majority of CA missions



Other Issues

- Emphasis on not taking revenge against real or suspected collaborators
- Counter fratricide measures



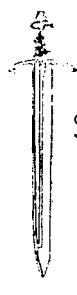
Psychological Operations

- Loudspeaker Operations
- Theme Development
- Leaflet Testing
- 4th POG handled the bulk of PsyOps



Other Special Operations

- SCUD Hunting
- Downed Pilot Recovery (N. Iraq)



Lessons Learned

- SF are ideally suited for this mission (competent, resourceful, professional)
- Reliable communications are critical
 - More/simpler/PTT radios (throw aways) need to be developed
 - Need to explore common communications systems
- Intelligence sharing requires a lot of imagination
- Maps are not available to all players
- Development of a set of basic individual and collective tasks for coalition partners are a must

